AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A multivalent conjugate molecule comprising a carrier protein with at least three different bacterial capsular polysaccharides covalently linked to the carrier protein, wherein the molecule elicits protective antibodies.

2. (previously presented) The conjugate molecule of claim 1 comprising four different bacterial capsular polysaccharides covalently linked to the carrier protein.

3. (previously presented) The conjugate molecule of claim 1 comprising five different bacterial capsular polysaccharides covalently linked to the carrier protein.

4. (previously presented) The conjugate molecule of claim 1 comprising six different bacterial capsular polysaccharides covalently linked to the carrier protein.

5. (previously presented) The conjugate molecule of claim 1, wherein the carrier protein is selected from the group consisting of Cα, Cβ, tetanus toxoid, diphtheria toxoid, diphtheria toxoid analog CRM197, and a porin protein.

6. (previously presented) The conjugate molecule of claim 1, wherein the bacterial capsular polysaccharides are different Group B Streptococcus capsular polysaccharides selected from the group consisting of type Ia, type Ib, type II, type III, type V, and type VIII.

7. (previously presented) The conjugate molecule of claim 6, wherein the Group B Streptococcus capsular polysaccharides are type Ia, type III and type V.

8. (previously presented) The conjugate molecule of claim 7, wherein the carrier protein is Cβ

9. (previously presented) The conjugate molecule of claim 6, wherein the bacterial capsular polysaccharides are of a size of between 80 and 120 kilodaltons.

10. (previously presented) The conjugate molecule of claim 6, wherein between about 5 and 20% of the sialic acid residues of the bacterial capsular polysaccharides are covalently linked to the carrier protein.

11. (previously presented) The conjugate molecule of claim 6, wherein the bacterial capsular polysaccharides are present in equimolar amounts.

12. (previously presented) The conjugate molecule of claim 1, wherein the bacterial capsular polysaccharides are *Neisseria meningitidis* capsular polysaccharides selected from the group consisting of A, B, C, W, and Y.

13. (previously presented) The conjugate molecule of claim 12, wherein the *Neisseria meningitidis* capsular polysaccharides are B, C, and Y.

14. (previously presented) The conjugate c molecule of claim 12, wherein the *Neisseria meningitidis* capsular polysaccharides are C, Y, and W-135.

15. (previously presented) The conjugate molecule of claim 12, wherein the carrier protein is a porin protein, tetanus toxoid, or CRM 197.

16. (previously presented) The conjugate molecule of claim 14, wherein the carrier protein is tetanus toxoid.

17. (previously presented) A method of preparing a multivalent conjugate molecule, the method comprising covalently linking at least three different bacterial capsular polysaccharides to a carrier protein.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein covalently linking the bacterial capsular polysaccharides to the carrier protein comprises steps of:

a) oxidizing the polysaccharides;

b) coupling the oxidized polysaccharides to the-carrier protein.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the polysaccharides are coupled to the carrier protein by reductive animation.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the polysaccharides are conjugated to the carrier protein by a bispacer coupling with a linker.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the carrier protein is selected from the group consisting of Cα, Cβ, tetanus toxoid, diphtheria toxoid, diphtheria toxoid analog CRM197, and a porin protein.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the bacterial capsular polysaccharides are different Group B Streptococcus capsular polysaccharides selected from the group consisting of type Ia, type Ib, type II, type III, type V, and ~~type V~~type VIII.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the Group B Streptococcus capsular polysaccharides are type Ia, type III, and type V.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the carrier protein Cβ.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein between about 5 and 20% of the sialic acid residues of the bacterial capsular polysaccharides are oxidized.

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein between about 5 and 20% of the sialic acid residues of the bacterial capsular polysaccharides are coupled to protein.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the bacterial capsular polysaccharides are *Neisseria meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of A, B, C, W, and Y.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the *Neisseria meningitidis* capsular polysaccharides are B, C, and Y.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the *Neisseria meningitidis* capsular polysaccharides are C, Y, and W-135.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the carrier protein is recombinant porin B, tetanus toxoid, or CRM197.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the carrier protein is tetanus toxoid.

32. (previously presented) A method of preventing or attenuating an infection in a mammal, the method comprising administering to the mammal a multivalent conjugate molecule comprising a carrier protein with at least three different bacterial capsular polysaccharides covalently linked to the carrier protein, wherein the multivalent conjugate molecule is administered in an amount sufficient to elicit protective antibodies against the bacterial capsular polysaccharides.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the carrier protein is selected from the group consisting of Cα, Cβ, tetanus toxoid, diphtheria toxoid, diphtheria toxoid analog CRM197, and a porin protein.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the multivalent conjugate molecule is administered to prevent or attenuate an infection caused by Group B Streptococcus and the bacterial capsular polysaccharides of the conjugate molecule are different Group B Streptococcus capsular polysaccharides selected from the group consisting of type Ia, type Ib, type II, type III, type V, and type VIII.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the Group B Streptococcus polysaccharides are type Ia, type III and type V.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the carrier protein is Cβ.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the multivalent conjugate molecule is administered to prevent or attenuate an infection caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* and the bacterial capsular polysaccharides of the conjugate molecule are different *Neisseria meningitidis* capsular polysaccharides selected from the group consisting of A, B, C, W, and Y.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the *Neisseria meningitidis* capsular polysaccharides are B, C, and Y.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the *Neisseria meningitidis* capsular polysaccharides are C, Y, and W-135.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the carrier protein is recombinant porin B, tetanus toxoid, or CRM197.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the carrier protein is tetanus toxoid.

42. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a multivalent conjugate molecule comprising a carrier protein with at least three different bacterial capsular polysaccharides covalently linked to the carrier protein and a pharmacological acceptable carrier, wherein the multivalent conjugate molecule is in an amount sufficient to elicit protective antibodies against the three different bacterial capsular polysaccharides.

43. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 42, wherein the carrier protein is selected from the group consisting of Cα, Cβ, tetanus toxoid, diphtheria toxoid, CRM197, and a porin protein.

44. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 42, wherein the bacterial capsular polysaccharides are different Group B Streptococcus capsular polysaccharides selected from the group consisting of type Ia, type Ib, type II, type III, type V, and type VIII.

45. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 44, wherein the Group B Streptococcus capsular polysaccharides are type Ia, type III and type V.

46. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 45, wherein the carrier protein is CJ}.

47. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 42, wherein the bacterial capsular polysaccharides of the immunogenic molecule are different *Neisseria meningitidis* capsular polysaccharides selected from the group consisting of A, B, C, W, and Y.

48. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 47, wherein the *Neisseria meningitidis* capsular polysaccharides are B, C, and Y.

49. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 47, wherein the *Neisseria meningitidis* capsular polysaccharides ate C, Y, and W-135.

50. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 47, wherein the carrier protein is tetanus toxoid, recombinant porin B or CRM197.

51. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 49, wherein the carrier protein is tetanus toxoid.

52. (new) The conjugate molecule of claim 1, wherein the polysaccharides are less than 100 kilodaltons in molecular weight.

53. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein the polysaccharides are less than 100 kilodaltons in molecular weight.

54. (new) The method of claim 32, wherein the polysaccharides are less than 100 kilodaltons in molecular weight.

55. (new) The composition of claim 42, wherein the polysaccharides are less than 100 kilodaltons in molecular weight.